

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 05985 081336Z

53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-04 NEAE-00 /030 W

----- 033129

P 081310Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 414

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 5985

FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS TS

SUBJ: MILITARY PACKAGE FOR TUNISIA

REF: A) TUNIS 5470 B) TUNIS 5832

1. I WOULD MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR GIVING YOUR ATTENTION TO A MATTER WHICH IS PROVING TO BE OF SOME EMBARRASSMENT TO ME. THIS CONCERNS A TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT DECISION TO PROCEED WITH PURCHASE OF CERTAIN AMERICAN EQUIPMENT AND, IN PARTICULAR, A DESIRE TO OBTAIN SAMS FOR US. GOT MINISTER OF DEFENSE KHEFACHA, ON SEPTEMBER 10, EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER ACQUIRING CHAPPARRAL AS SUBSTITUTE FOR HAWK PROVIDED DOD COULD SEND TEAM HERE TO EXPLAIN CHAPPARRAL CHARACTERISTICS. I UNDERTOOK TO GET HIM AN EARLY RESPONSE FROM WASHINGTON, AND WE TALKED IN TERMS OF A POSSIBLE CHAPPARRAL TEAM VISIT TO TUNISIA DURING SECOND WEEK IN OCTOBER.

2. FOUR WEEKS HAVE ELAPSED SINCE MY MEETING WITH KHEFACHA, BUT I HAVE RECEIVED NO RESPONSE FROM WASHINGTON TO MY ORIGINAL AND FOLLOW-UP CALBES (REFTELS). I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT STATE AND DOD HAVE BEEN UNABLE DURING THIS PERIOD TO PROVIDE ANY GUIDANCE WHATSOEVER AS TO WHAT I MIGHT TELL KHEFACHA. HE MUST THINK WE ARE DRAGGING OUR FEET -- AT A TIME, INCIDENTALLY, WHEN TUNISIANS ARE REALISTICALLY SCALING DOWN THEIR ORIGINAL ARMS REQUEST TO REASONABLE PROPORTIONS AND ARE POINTED IN DIRECTION WE HAVE LONG FAVORED, I.E. PURCHASE OF CHAPPARRALS RATHER THAN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TUNIS 05985 081336Z

HAWKS.

3. I NEED TO TELL KHEFACHA SOMETHING, IF ONLY (A) TO
REAFFIRM THAT HAWK MISSILES AT ORIGINAL PRICE ARE INDEED NO
LONGER AVAILABLE; AND (B) TO EXPRESS OUR INTEREST IN
BEING FORTHCOMING REGARDING THE CHAPPARRAL, INCLUDING OUR
WILLINGNESS TO SEND TEAM OF CHAPPARRAL EXPERTS TO TUNISIA
AT AN EARLY DATE (IF NOT EARLY IN OCTOBER).
SEELYE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, RADAR, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, MISSILES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TUNIS05985
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750349-0508
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751072/aaaacmls.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 TUNIS 5470, 75 TUNIS 5832
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <05 DEC 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY PACKAGE FOR TUNISIA
TAGS: MASS, TS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006